

Adult

Expand
Your
Horizon

Education

Show-Me Literacy

The "Official" Newsletter of Literacy in Missouri

Issue No. 102

October 2003



Todd Whitaker was the special guest speaker at the 2003 AEL Director's Conference held in September.

Missouri AEL Holds Fall Director's Meeting

Adult Education and Literacy directors from around the state of Missouri converged at the St. Louis Marriott Airport Hotel for the annual Fall Director's Meeting Sept. 18 and 19.

Dr. Todd Whitaker, a Professor at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Ind., and a Professional Development/Educational Consultant for Teachers and Principals, was the special afternoon and evening speaker for the meeting. (See more on Whitaker, Page 5).

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Teacher, 80, Still Helping to Shape Futures

By Donald Bradley
The Kansas City Star
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Thirty years of teaching is plenty for most and too many for some.

Not for Miss Sadi. She's 80 years old and still grading papers.

"It makes me get up every morning and take a shower," Sadi Negaard said.

Negaard helps students earn GEDs at the Independence School District's adult education center. It is a classroom of the redirected, mostly people who have been knocked off life's course.

Some are the disaffected youth of a new millennium. A few have tattoos and body piercings. But none daunt Negaard, who hails from several generations away and a small town in Iowa.

"She just uses her 'mean grandma face' on them," teacher T.J. Sturn said. "Seriously, they love her. I don't know if she's aware of the value she brings to this classroom."

From The State AEL Office

Informative Websites Sponsored by ACE/GED

The following are three worthwhile sites sponsored by ACE/GED. The first offers FAQ's about the GED Tests. The other two relate to two initiatives being introduced nationwide. All three are gold mines of information and resources for AEL administrators and teachers.

<http://www.acenet.edu/calec/ged/faq-TT.cfm>

<http://www.CollegeIsPossible.org>

<http://www.gedtest.org/employersofchoice/>

Milagro Foundation Serves Disadvantaged Youth

The Milagro Foundation focuses on serving at-risk, underrepresented and disadvantaged youth through educational programs and health services. The Foundation also supports artistic and culturally enriching programs that strengthen youth and communities. Most grant amounts are between \$2,500 and \$5,000. Creative programs from grass roots organizations working with and for underrepresented and underprivileged children and youth take precedence. Application deadline: ongoing.

<http://www.milagrofoundation.org/>

Free Online Typing Course

This online tutorial provides a series of free typing lessons. Registration (free) required to select a keyboard type and save lessons. Also available in Spanish.

<http://www.goodtyping.com/>

NIFL-ESL Listserv Shares Web Resources for Adult ESL

The following is a listing of practitioner recommended web resources for Adult ESL classes recently shared on the NIFL-ESL list serv:

<http://www.joneslibrary.org/esl/adult.html>

<http://www.eslcafe.com/>

<http://vlc.polyu.edu.hk/idioms/>

<http://www.user.shentel.net/rbowman/files/lang.htm>

<http://www.esl-lab.com/>

<http://www.alri.org/harness.html>

www.Manythings.org

www.a4esl.org

www.isabelperez.com

<http://www.alri.org/litlist/esolweb-sites.html>

<http://alri.org/lrc/ezpage/>

<http://www.alri.org/harness/harness-esol.html>

<http://www.coedu.usf.edu/rpdac/centerhome.htm>

www.cityfamily.org

The ABCs of Ready to Learn

Preschool is growing up, and getting political. The focus is on getting young kids ready for school, and the policy struggle over what that means. More phonics and seat work? More formal testing? Where do finger paints and clapping games fit in? Child development expert Sue Bredekamp talked to Jan Richter about the five keys to understanding how young children learn.

http://www.connectforkids.org/benton_topics1544/benton_topics_show.htm?doc_id=199397

Tuned-in Toddlers? Study Examines TV Habits of Children Under Age Six

Will "Baby Einstein" videos help your baby's brain develop? Or will staring at the flickering screen sedate your squirming toddler and interfere with his or her development? We don't know the answers—but a new national study indicates that for good or ill, the current crop of babies and toddlers is swimming in a sea of media. http://www.connectforkids.org/content1554/content_show.htm?attrib_id=325&doc_id=199398

The View from California: 5 Years of 'English Only'

California voters passed Proposition 227 in 1998, requiring that students in the state's public schools be taught "overwhelmingly" in English, unless at least 20 parents in one grade request bilingual education for their children. The measure has dramatically reduced the number of children in bilingual classrooms. This article, originally published in the Children's Advocate, published by Action Alliance for Children, offers a range of views on how the law is working. http://www.connectforkids.org/benton_topics1544/benton_topics_show.htm?doc_id=198630

'Grants Alert' Web Site Available for Non-profits

"GrantsAlert" is a website that helps nonprofits, especially those involved in education, secure the funds they need to continue their important work.

<http://www.grantsalert.com/>

Teacher

(Continued from Page 1)

Students in adult education work at varying paces, which stretches teachers to provide the individual tutoring necessary. Student Marcie Campbell said Negaard offered just that kind of help.

"We couldn't do this without her," Campbell said.

Debra Archuletta, another student, said Negaard did not let age or culture get in the way of what she loved to do. A classroom is still students and a teacher.

"For having that gap, she still bonds with kids," said Archuletta, one of the older students in the class. "She genuinely cares about kids' education. When we need help, she's there."

After her graduation from high school in Lamoni, Iowa, Negaard couldn't wait to get out of town. She entered the University of Iowa and earned a degree in sociology.

After college, she got a job as an airline stewardess - what the job was called in the 1940s. They were really airplanes, too. Not jets.

"They were DC3s and they had propellers," Negaard said. "But I thought it was great. I got to see all the big cities like New York and Chicago. That was a pretty big deal for a young girl who hadn't hardly been out of Iowa."

But the job was not fulfilling, so she went to work for a church publishing group. She married Leland Negaard, a lawyer, and the couple raised three daughters.

Sadi Negaard taught school for 30 years, retiring from the Fort Osage School District in 1993. She did volunteer work at Independence Regional Health Center and put out a newsletter for several organizations and one for her family.

Two years ago, after asking around about where she might expend some energy, she returned to the classroom, teaching part time in Sturn's GED class.

It was not an easy group to come back to.

"Some of these kids aren't real motivated. ... They haven't been given a lot of support," Negaard said.

Recently she talked to a young man about his most recent test.

TOTALLY

E News and notes
C from the
H Missouri AEL
N Professional
O Development
L Center, operated
O by North Central
G Mo. College,
Y Trenton.

**Technology
Coordinator:**
Jamy Preul

Director:
John Stains

Mo AEL Moving Forward with Distance Learning



Jamy Preul

"Technology will not replace instructors, but instructors who use technology will replace those who do not." -- Christine Melon, Teletraining Institute.

There is a lot of buzz going around the state about Distance Learning. What is DL? When will it get to us? Do we have to learn a lot of new teaching techniques? Will my students be able to learn with it? Will students need to buy their own computers?

For most educators, Distance Learning is equivalent to reinventing the classroom. It usually refers to delivering instruction in non-classroom settings. Distance

Learning can take many forms-from answering e-mail, taking online courses to independent study using videotapes and workbooks. In Missouri, not only are the students experiencing DL, but teachers and support staff are also.

Distance Learning isn't really new to MO AEL. For the past three years, students have had access to GEDOnLine, SkillsTutor, and MarcoPolo. ACES input staff have been using e-mail to communicate and learn more about the software program. AEL Directors receive information from DESE online, there are websites available to download important notices. An E-group has been activated to enable teachers to communicate with other teachers across the state. This publication is in an on-line format.

We have reached a point where more will be heard about DL in MO. Recently, Phyllis Shelby was named as the first Distance Learning Coordinator. Several teachers have been trained with distance learning products, such as GED Connections, Workplace Essential Skills (both videotapes and workbooks), online lessons with PBS LiteracyLink, GEDOnLine, SkillsTutor and Tutorsystems.

NetMeeting, a feature that comes with Windows operating systems, has been used for ACES staff. It allows errors to be corrected without having a visit from a tech or e-mailing the files off for repairs. ACES staff can sit in front of the computer while the errors are corrected from a remote site.

HorizonLive is a tool to deliver online trainings. A pilot in-service training will be held in December. Imagine....sitting in front of your own home personal computer and attending a required in-service for teacher certification! Anyone have wireless connections? Would there be room on the beach for a training like this?

MO AEL is moving forward technologically! Hang onto your seats as we move into this new way of teaching and receiving trainings.

Contact Jamy Preul at 573-445-9703 or email aelcentral@socket.net for more information or questions.

"You're getting way up there, Ron," she told him. "Keep working hard and you will be out of here."

He didn't say anything, just smiled and nodded.

That is what so many of the students need, she said: smiles and nice notes.

"I had a boy once respond to one of my notes in a way that let me know he hadn't had much of that in his life," Negaard said.

And, if doing nice doesn't work ...

"I can act like a grumpy old grandma, too," she said. "That still works on some of them."

Meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

Each program director also brought an instructor to the meeting. A host of information was provided to both directors and teachers over the two-day period.

Adult Education and Employment Training Unit Coordinator Don Eisinger provided opening remarks and welcomed attendees.

Section Director Steve Coffman also welcomed the group. He discussed statewide projects, including the consolidation of the MO AEL Resource Center and MO AEL Technology Center, which was effective Oct. 1. The new center, named the Missouri Adult Education and Literacy Professional Development Center (MAEL PDC), is located at North Central Missouri College, Trenton.

DESE Supervisor Linda Hays discussed and reviewed the application for Online Software and Instructor Training that would be available for AEL programs. Hays said the proposal included three options for application: Option 1 included online products available (SkillsTutor.com, BLS TutorSystems, and GED Online Classroom) as an opportunity for pilot sites to use online software and develop virtual classrooms; Option 2 included Video and PBS Resources for programs with AEL classrooms in libraries and/or career centers; and Option 3 included both Online and Video/PBS Resources.

For the remainder of Thursday afternoon, Dr. Whitaker provided attendees with an enthusiastic, motivating and inspirational presentation on effective leadership and communication. He discussed the power of communication, change through leadership, and proven ways to improve supervision, evaluation and instruction.

FY 02 Performance information was presented to directors Friday morning. Program and instructional improvement was discussed. Technology Coordinator Jamy Preul presented new ACES reports and information on accessing reports to

assist in evaluating data.

HB 346--the bill containing changes and explanations regarding teacher certification--was discussed Friday afternoon by Mark Shore with the DESE certification office. One change Shore noted was a fee increase in background checks which went into effect in August. The fee for fingerprint checks submitted to the FBI is \$38, up from \$22, due to new or increased fees for services through the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the FBI.

Newly developed logos and marketing materials were presented by Nancy Kettenbrink from DESE. Directors were provided samples of logos for review. Kettenbrink also provided two brochures for review.

Janet Geary, AEL Director from North Kansas City, also discussed marketing. She explained marketing strategies learned at a conference attended earlier in the year.

DESE-AEL Finance Supervisor Mike Griggs provided information to directors regarding funding and budgeting. He reviewed the program budget spreadsheets and explained when finan-

cial reports are due. Various directors provided ways they were coping with budget cuts and budget planning during lean years. Some have cut or consolidated class sites; another director said that salaries had to be frozen; others explained that they were seeking alternative funding through local grants.

Instructors were also learning new and useful ideas on Friday.

"Zero preparation activities for effective small-group learning" was presented by Laurel Pollard in the morning session. Pollard is the co-author of *Zero Prep* and conducted the ESL workshops for the teacher workshops earlier in the year. Numerous categories were discussed, including "What makes a class multi-level", "Zero prep: ready-to-go activities for effective teachers", "Classic jigsaw", "Student-made tests", and others.

Sandi Hendricks presented for the afternoon session. New instructional approaches in the various subject areas of the GED were discussed as well as using data to make instructional decisions.

The next Director's Meeting will be held in Spring 2004. Dates and times will be announced at a later date.



Adult Education and Employment Training Unit Coordinator Don Eisinger provided opening remarks and welcomed attendees to the Fall AEL Director's meeting held Sept. 18-19 at the St. Louis Airport Marriott.

Educational Consultant Has Missouri Background



Todd Whitaker

Dr. Todd Whitaker, Professional Development/Educational Consultant for Teachers and Principals, was the featured guest speaker for the AEL Fall Director's Meeting in the afternoon and evening sessions on Thursday, Sept. 18.

Prior to coming to Indiana in 1993, Dr. Whitaker taught at the junior high and high school level in Missouri. Following his teaching experience he served as a middle school and high school principal for eight years.

In addition, Dr. Whitaker served as middle school coordinator in Jefferson City, Mo., where he supervised all aspects of building, staffing, curriculum, programs, and technology of two new middle schools.

He has been published in the areas of teacher leadership, instructional improvement, change, leadership effectiveness, technology, and middle level practices. His first book, "Dealing With Difficult Teachers," is in its 5th printing. Last year, he published "Motivating & Inspiring Teachers: The Educational Leader's Guide For Building Staff Morale." This book went on to become the publisher's number one selling book during the year 2000. His book "Dealing

With Difficult Parents (And With Parents In Difficult Situations)" was released in February, 2001.

He has new two books just published this fall - "Feeling Great! The Educator's Guide For Eating Better, Exercising Smarter, and Looking Your Best" and "Building Personal Morale: The Educator's Guide For Motivating & Inspiring Yourself."

Dr. Whitaker is a highly sought after speaker. He does professional development and motivational speaking with educators, businesses, and organizations. He has made over 500 presentations at the state, national, and international levels.

He is married to Beth, a former teacher and principal, who is an assistant professor in the Elementary Education Department at Indiana State University. Beth and Todd are also co-editors of *Contemporary Education* - an international educational journal. They are the parents of three children: Katherine, Madeline, and Harrison.

For more information and a listing of materials, visit the website at www.toddwhitaker.com or call (812) 237-2904.

'More Bricks/Less Straw'--Missouri ESL Conference Planned

The Missouri ESL Educators' Conference will be held March 12 & 13, 2004, in Springfield, Mo. This year's theme is "More Bricks/Less Straw: How to make the most with limited resources."

SMSU's Center for Continuing and Professional Education is coordinating the conference.

As budgets shrink and immigrant populations grow, ESL educators face the challenge of producing more results with fewer resources. This conference will provide an opportunity to share ideas of cost-effective ways to create an exciting learning environment for

students, whether they are K-12, college/university students, or adult learners. Attendees will also have the opportunity to network with other ESL professionals and hear from experts in the field.

Registration

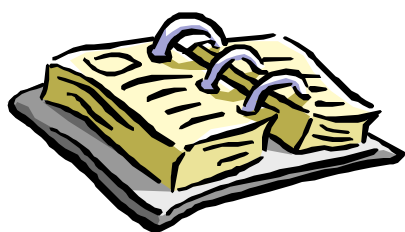
On Friday evening, registration will be held on the first floor of the Alumni Center. The Alumni Center is located at 300 S. Jefferson (on the corner of Jefferson and McDaniel) in Springfield.

Registration Saturday morning will be held at the Jim D. Morris Center, which is directly across the street from the Alumni Center at 301 S. Jefferson. All concurrent sessions will be held in the

English Language Institute, second floor of the Jim D. Morris Center.

The luncheon will be held at the SMSU Kentwood Hall, 700 E. St. Louis Street. (Transportation will be provided.)

Educators are encouraged to participate in the conference by presenting a paper, demonstration, workshop or panel discussion in any of the areas of ESL education: Public Education, Migrant/Adult, Higher Education or General. For more information or to register, see <http://ccpe.smsu.edu/esl>; (417) 836-6660.



Show-Me...

What's Happening

13th Annual National Conference on Family Literacy

Orlando, Fla. - Disney's
Coronado Springs Resort
March 1-3, 2004
<http://www.famlit.org>

ESL Educators' Spring Conference

Springfield, Mo.
March 12 & 13, 2004
<http://ccpe.smsu.edu/esl>
(417) 836-6660

2004 COABE National Conference

The Commission on Adult
Basic Education (COABE)
and the Ohio Association for
Adult and Continuing
Education (OAACE)
April 24 - 28, 2004
Columbus, Ohio
<http://www.coabe04.org/>

MAEL PDC BTW Schedule

The Missouri AEL Professional Development Center at North Central Missouri College, Trenton, announces the Beginning Teacher Workshop (BTW) schedule. Completion of a BTW is required for initial AEL teacher certification. Preregistration is required. All workshops will be held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City. **For more information, contact the center at (660) 359-3948 or maelpdc@mail.ncmissouri.edu**

Dates

Jan. 24-25
March 13-14
May 8-9

Deadline

Jan. 12
March 1
April 26

Day 1 agenda is from 8 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. with breakfast and lunch included; Day 2 agenda is from 7:30 a.m. to noon with breakfast included.

Show-Us... Your Stuff!

If you have comments, questions, or story ideas, please send them to Cheryl Harlan, Editor:

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*Digital photos requested;
regular photos will be scanned.*

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This publication was produced pursuant to a grant from the Director, Adult Education & Literacy, Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education, under the authority of Title II of the Workforce Investment Act. The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education or the U.S. Office of Education, and no official endorsement by these agencies should be inferred.

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